Health Care Careers

REGISTERED NURSES (RNs) are the largest group among all health occupations. Most RNs work as hospital nurses, but many of them care for patients in private clinics and some work in private homes. They provide nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. They assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. They may do case management or advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention. Nurses may also provide public health education.

Requirements

▲ High school diploma or equivalent.

▲ Completion of a State board approved nursing program:
Either two-year associate degree in Nursing, or
A four-year bachelor's degree in Nursing.

▲ A passing grade on the State Board of Registered Nursing examination to obtain a State license.

▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

▲ Registered Nurses
Median hourly wage: $33.85

▲ Average annual wage: $71,927

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Job Outlook

▲ Estimated number of RNs in 2004: 230,300

▲ Estimated number of RNs in 2014: 291,200

▲ Estimated annual job openings: 10,910
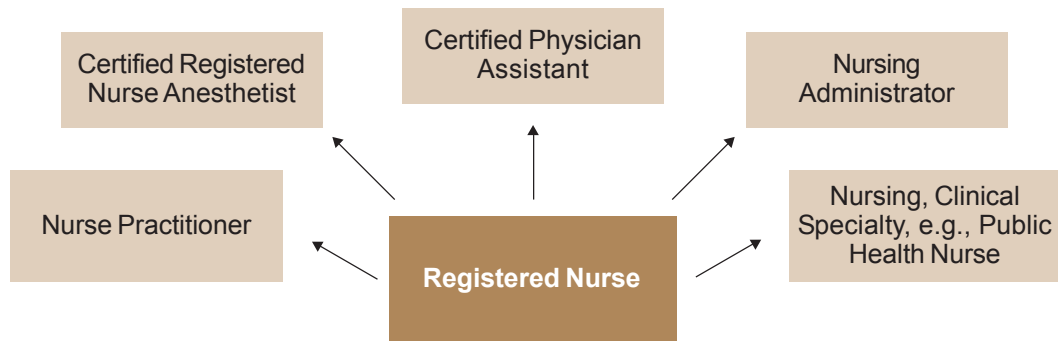
Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Critical RN shortages are expected over the next 10 years; hospitals and clinics have ongoing, active recruitment programs, some offering unique benefits, to attract applicants.

EDD Employment Development Department
State of California

LMID Labor Market Information Division
"Your Information Source"

Registered Nurses

Sources of Information

▲ California Board of Registered Nursing
(916) 322-3350
www.rn.ca.gov

▲ California Nurses Association
(510) 273-2200
www.calnurse.org

▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 29
Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners

Possible Career Paths

	Certified Physician Assistant	
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist		Nursing Administrator
Nurse Practitioner	**Registered Nurse**	Nursing, Clinical Specialty, e.g., Public Health Nurse

The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.

EDD Employment Development Department
State of California

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